

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-39. (Cancelled).

40. (Currently amended) A line arrangement for electrical systems of vehicles, comprising:
an electrical supply line running from a current feed terminal to a current delivery terminal and having at least one current-carrying inner conductor and at least one protective sheath surrounding the inner conductor,
a detector element which runs along the supply line,
said detector element having at least one of an optical property and an electrical property, changes of the at least one of the optical and electrical properties being detectable by detecting means,
said detector element being adapted and is formed in such a way that its at least one of said electrical and/or optical behavior is properties are irreversibly changed when a local arc originating from the current-carrying inner conductor occurs, and
an isolating circuit responsive to the detecting means and connected to the current feed terminal, said isolating circuit isolating to isolate the current-carrying inner conductor from a current source when a change of the at least one of the electrical and/or optical behavior properties of the detector element changes is detected by the detecting means.

41. (Currently amended) A line arrangement according to claim 40, wherein the detector element is formed in such a way that it irreversibly deteriorates in its electrical and/or optical behavior property under the local effect of heat.

42. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 40, wherein the detector element surrounds the supply line.

43. (Currently amended) A line arrangement according to claim 40, wherein the detector element comprises at least one electrical and/or optical detector line, the electrical and/or optical behavior property of which is irreversibly changed when the arc occurs.

44. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 43, wherein the detector line runs in the form of a helix.

45. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 43, wherein the detector line runs in the form of meanders.

46. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 43, wherein portions of the detector line following one another in a longitudinal direction of the supply line and running transversely in relation to the longitudinal direction of the supply line are spaced apart from one another by a spacing which is less than approximately the diameter of the inner conductor.

47. (Currently amended) A line arrangement according to claim 43, wherein the detector line consists of a material which irreversibly changes in its electrical and/or optical behavior property when there is local ingress of an amount of heat that can be generated by the arc.

48. (Currently amended) A line arrangement according to claim 43, wherein the detector line consists of a material which irreversibly changes in its electrical and/or optical behavior property from a threshold temperature, which lies in the range from approximately 100°C to approximately 500°C.

49. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 43, wherein the detector line is surrounded by an insulating protective enclosure.

50. (Currently amended) A line arrangement according to claim 40 43, wherein the detector element has a carrier on which the detector line is held.

51. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 50, wherein the detector line is disposed in the form of conducting tracks on the carrier.

52. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 51, wherein the conducting tracks run in the manner of meanders on the carrier.

53. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 51, wherein the carrier is given the form of a carrier strip.

54. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 53, wherein the carrier strip runs helically around the supply line.

55. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 50, wherein the carrier surrounds the supply line at least partially.

56. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 50, wherein the carrier encloses the supply line substantially completely.

57. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 50, wherein the carrier forms part of a protective enclosure for the detector line.

58. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 50, wherein the carrier consists of a material which irreversibly changes under the effect of the arc originating from the inner conductor.

59. (Currently amended) A line arrangement according to claim 58, wherein for electrical systems of vehicles, comprising:

an electrical supply line running from a current feed terminal to a current delivery terminal and having at least one current-carrying inner conductor and at least one protective sheath surrounding the inner conductor,

a detector element which runs along the supply line,

said detector element comprising a carrier and a detector line,

said detector line having at least one of an optical property and an electrical property, changes of said at least one of the optical and electrical properties being detectable by detecting means,

the carrier being connected to the detector line eonists and consisting of a material which under the local effect of an arc originating from the inner conductor irreversibly deforms under the effect of the arc originating from the inner conductor and thus changes said at least one of said optical and electrical properties of said detector line due to the connection of said detector line to said carrier, and

an isolating circuit responsive to the detecting means and connected to the current feed terminal, said isolating circuit isolating the current-carrying inner conductor from a current source when a change of the at least one of the electrical and optical properties of the detector line is detected by the detecting means.

60. (Currently amended) A line arrangement according to claim 58, wherein for electrical systems of vehicles, comprising:

an electrical supply line running from a current feed terminal to a current delivery terminal and having at least one current-carrying inner conductor and at least one protective sheath surrounding the inner conductor,

a detector element which runs along the supply line,

said detector element comprising a carrier and a detector line,

said detector line having at least one of an optical property and an electrical property, changes of said at least one of the optical and electrical properties being detectable by detecting means,

the carrier being connected to the detector line and consisting eonists of a material which under the local effect of an arc originating from the inner conductor irreversibly

decomposes under the effect of the arc originating from the inner conductor and thus changes
said at least one of said optical and electrical properties of said detector line due to the
connection of said detector line to said carrier, and

an isolating circuit responsive to the detecting means and connected to the current feed
terminal, said isolating circuit isolating the current-carrying inner conductor from a current
source when a change of the at least one of the electrical and optical properties of the detector
line is detected by the detecting means.

61. (Currently amended) A line arrangement according to claim 58, wherein on account of its irreversible change under the local effect of the arc, the carrier irreversibly changes the electrical and/or optical behavior property of the detector line.

62. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 61, wherein the carrier locally interrupts the detector line.

63. (Currently amended) A line arrangement according to claim 40, wherein the detector element irreversibly changes in its electrical and/or optical behavior property when it is mechanically damaged.

64. (Currently amended) A line arrangement according to claim 40 43, wherein the detector element changes in its electrical and/or optical behavior property when it undergoes mechanical damage caused by a mechanical component at a potential other than that of the detector line.

65. (Currently amended) A line arrangement according to claim 63 43, wherein the detector line irreversibly changes in its electrical and/or optical behavior property when the detector element undergoes mechanical damage.

66. (Currently amended) A line arrangement according to claim 65, wherein the detector line irreversibly deteriorates in its behavior property with regard to the passing through of electrical and/or optical signals when it undergoes mechanical damage.

67. (Currently amended) A line arrangement according to claim 40 43, wherein the detector line lies in a circuit specific to the detector line.

68. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 40, wherein at least one detector circuit is provided which activates the isolating circuit.

69. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 68, wherein the detector circuit is associated with the current feed terminal.

70. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 68, wherein the detector circuit is associated with the current delivery terminal.

71. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 68, wherein the detector circuit communicates with the isolating circuit by means of an electrical line.

72. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 68, wherein the detector circuit communicates with the isolating circuit by means of a light guide.

73. (Currently amended) A line arrangement according to claim 68, wherein:
a number of detector circuits are provided, and
the detector circuits communicate with one another to sense a change of the electrical and/or optical behavior property of the detector element.

74. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 73, wherein the detector circuits communicate with one another via an internal line within the line strand.

75. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 73, wherein the detector circuits communicate with one another via an external line outside the line strand.

76. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 73, wherein the detector circuits communicate with one another via an electrical line.

77. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 73, wherein the detector circuits communicate with one another via an optical line.

78. (Previously presented) A line arrangement according to claim 68, wherein the detector circuit detects the occurrence of a potential in the detector line other than that of the detector line.

79. (New) A line arrangement for electrical systems of vehicles, comprising:

an electrical supply line running from a current feed terminal to a current delivery terminal and having at least one current-carrying inner conductor and at least one protective sheath surrounding the inner conductor,

a detector element which runs along the supply line,

said detector element comprising a detector line, said detector line having at least an electrical property, changes of said electrical property being detectable by detecting means,

said detector line being of a material adapted in such a way that at least its electrical properties are irreversibly changed due to at least one of: (a) melting and fusing; and (b) thermal degradation of said material, when a local arc originating from the current-carrying inner conductor occurs, and

an isolating circuit responsive to the detecting means and connected to the current feed terminal, said isolating circuit isolating the current-carrying inner conductor from a current source when a change of the electrical property of the detector line is detected by the detecting means.

80. (New) A line arrangement for electrical systems of vehicles, comprising:

an electrical supply line running from a current feed terminal to a current delivery terminal and having at least one current-carrying inner conductor and at least one protective sheath surrounding the inner conductor,

a detector element which runs along the supply line,

said detector element comprising a detector line, said detector line having at least an optical property, changes of said optical property being detectable by detecting means,

said detector line being of a polymer material adapted in such a way that at least its optical properties are irreversibly changed when a local arc originating from the current-carrying inner conductor occurs, and

an isolating circuit responsive to the detecting means and connected to the current feed terminal, said isolating circuit isolating the current-carrying inner conductor from a current source when a change of the optical property of the detector line is detected by the detecting means.